

8. Stent according to claim 1, wherein, on at least one front face (10; 11) of the stent (1), at least one of a removable, pliable or elastic connection element (14) is provided for connecting with an additional stent (1) that extends in an approximately axial direction.

10. (Amended) Stent according to claim 1, wherein the stent is made of metal.

Please add the following claims:

-- 11. Stent according to claim 1, wherein the stent is made of a self-expanding-shape memory alloy.

12. Stent according to claim 11, wherein the shape memory alloy is nitinol. --

REMARKS

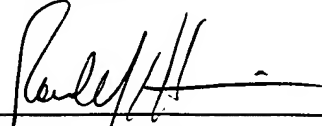
Claims 1-12 are currently pending in this application, as amended. By this Preliminary Amendment, Applicant has eliminated the improper multiple dependencies from the claims, and recited the preferred materials originally included in claim 10 as separate dependent claims 11 and 12. A marked-up version of the claims showing these changes is attached. Additionally, Applicant has submitted a Substitute Specification incorporating these changes. No new matter has been introduced in the Substitute Specification.

Prompt consideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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3. (Amended) Stent according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein the punchings (6) on the two edges that are interdigitated with each other by means of tongues (7) are generally arranged on a line running approximately axially and are acted upon by an axially and/or radially oriented holding element.
4. (Amended) Stent according to [one of claims 1 to] claim 3, wherein the removable holding element that keeps the break (4) of the stent (1) together is at least one of a thread (9), a plastic band (12) or a large number of rivets (13) and is formed of a material which dissolves in the body of the patient.
5. (Amended) Stent according to [one of claims 1 to] claim 3, wherein the removable holding element is a wire or stylet (8) made of metal.
6. (Amended) Stent according to [one of claims 1 to] claim 5, wherein a holding element or drawn thread engaging through the punchings (6) along the break (4) is a surgical sewing thread which in particular runs from a front face (10) of the stent (1) to an opposite face (11) and from there back again through the punchings (6), and wherein beginning and end of the holding element or thread (9) are connected with each other.
7. (Amended) Stent according to [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the stent is constructed in a flat, unrolled form, and is shaped into a support sleeve which is held together on the edges facing one another according to the shaping of the sleeve by a holding element connecting the punchings (6), wherein the holding element comprises a wire or a thread (9).
8. Stent according to [one of claims 1 to 7] claim 1, wherein, on at least one front face (10; 11) of the stent (1), at least one of a removable, pliable or elastic connection element (14) is provided for connecting with an additional stent (1) that extends in an approximately axial direction.
10. (Amended) Stent according to [one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the stent is made of metal [, especially one of a steel or a self-expanding-memory metal alloy (nitinol)].